

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, ESTC, MX

SUBJ: MEXICO'S REACTOR FUELING REQUIREMENTS

REF: (A) MEXICO 6273

(2) IAEA VIENNA 7084

A. FOR MEXICO

1. USG HAS INITIATED STEPS TO ESTABLISH FRAMEWORK FOR SUPPLYING ENRICHED URANIUM TO IAEA FOR MEXICAN LAGUNA VERDE PROJECT. USAEC HAS APPROVED AND SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW WITHIN EXEC. BRANCH PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO REMOVE REQUIREMENT FOR CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF TRANSFERS OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL TO AGENCY (I.E., AMENDMENT TO SECTION 54 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY ACT. CANNOT PREDICT TIMETABLE FOR ENACTING PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

2. FURTHER, AMENDMENT TO US-IAEA AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION, WHICH WOULD EXTEND TERM BILATERAL FOR 40 YEARS AFTER 1973 AND THUS ACCOMMODATE LONG-TERM POWER REACTOR FUELING, IS BEFORE USAEC COMMISSIONERS FOR APPROVAL. COMMISSION ACTION EXPECTED SHORTLY. APPEARS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT NEXT NECESSARY STEP
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(I.E., PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT) CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED

BEFORE IAEA BD GOV. MEETING SEPT. 14; THUS UNLIKELY BD GOV WILL BE ABLE TAKE UP AMENDMENT THIS MEETING. USG NONETHELESS WILL MOVE PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL AND COMPLETE OTHER STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS TO BRING AMENDMENT INTO EFFECT.

3. WITH ACTION ON LEGISLATION AND BILATERAL AMENDMENT MOVING FORWARD, U.S. SUPPLY FRAMEWORK TAKING SHAPE. RECOGNIZE IMPLEMENTING TOLL ENRICHMENT CONTRACTS FOR TWO LAGUNA VERDE UNITS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ANNOUNCED USAEC CONTRACTING POLICY. DRAFT TOLL ENRICHMENT CONTRACTS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE THIS MONTH.

4. RE CONSIDERATION OF US-GOM BILATERAL. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS IN PAST SIMILAR TO THAT CITED PARA. 2 REF. (1) ON PART INDIVIDUAL MEXICAN OFFICIALS. GOM, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN HIGHLY RELUCTANT RAISE WITH USG QUESTION OF SUCH BILATERAL AGREEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY REQUESTED LEAVE INITIATIVE IN THIS REGARD TO GOM BUT TO RESPOND TO ANY SUCH INITIATIVE POSITIVELY.

B. FOR IAEA VIENNA

1. REPORT PER REF. (2) APPRECIATED, PARTICULARLY INITIATIVE RE OBTAINING SUBMISSION AGENCY LETTER TO U.S. IN ADDITION OTHER POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS. USAEC WOULD APPRECIATE COPY AGENCY LETTER WHEN RECEIVED.

2. PER INFO ABOVE AND STATE'S 174347 (NOTAL, BELIEVE MISSION FULLY UP TO DATE ON STATUS VARIOUS PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS IN MATTER MEXICAN FUEL SUPPLY. RUSH

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